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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(s): Niederhaeusern et al

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ATTORNEY

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Commissioner of Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

DEC 11 2003

I. INTRODUCTION

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 05/28/03 (Paper No. 7) in regard to the above-identified patent application. Reconsideration of the rejection of the claims is respectfully solicited in light of the following amendment and remarks.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge \$1036.00 for a 3 month extension of time and for additional claim fees, and to charge payment for any other fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

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